[*Translation*]

Import of Homoeopathic Medicines

6361. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for the import of Homoeopathic medicines in India;

(b) whether any procedure for determining its sale price has been announced; and

(c) if not, the action being taken to make these medicines available to the consumers at reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) The import of Homoeopathic Medicine is governed by the Export and Import Policy, 1992–97, under which 'Homoeopathic Medicines and Drugs' can be imported freely.

(b) and (c). Homoeopathic Medicines are not covered under Drugs Price control Order, 1987.

Guru Gobind Singh Hospital, Delhi

6362. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foundation stone of Guru Gobind Singh Hospital has been laid in Delhi;

(b) if so, the progress of construction of the hospital; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to expedite the construction work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The boundary wall of the hospital has already been constructed. In order to expedite the construction work, Delhi Administration propose to take simultaneous action for approval of various concerned agencies as far as possible.

[*English*]

Monosodium Glutomate in Food

6363. DR. R. MALLU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

a) whether Government are aware of work done in South Australia and several other countries which clearly show that monosodium glutomate (MSG) in foods causes higher activity in children;

(b) whether many countries have banned the use of MSG;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the reasons for such ban;

(d) whether certain companies have been adding MSG to noodles and now they are also adding MSG to soups, both of which are popular dishes with children; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) As per some published reports based on studies, carried out in Australia, USA, UK and Denmark, on effect of consumption of MSG through food as well as through intra-venous administration, there is no indication that MSG in food causes